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SEISDON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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REPORTS  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
(Dr. H. R. SPACKMAN, F.R.I.P.H.)  
AND  
**Sanitary Inspector**  
(Mr. ERNEST MANTELL, M.S.I.A.),  
*FOR THE YEAR 1925.*

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WOLVERHAMPTON:  
BARFORD & NEWITT, PRINTERS, QUEEN STREET,  
103,311.



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PENN FIELDS,

WOLVERHAMPTON,

*June 7th, 1926.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my twenty-sixth annual report, namely, for 1925.

This district is roughly speaking 25 miles long by 8 broad, and contains 43,533 acres. The elevation is high, much of the district lying between 500 and 600 ft. above sea level. The air is bracing and the southern parts are well wooded and particularly charming. The attractions of the neighbourhood are not an unmixed blessing, as convalescents and others in an infectious state come in in large numbers from the surrounding industrial areas.

The soil in many parts is very light, especially in the south, and so is suitable for sewerage farms, of which we have six from outside districts, viz.:—Wolverhampton; Stourbridge Main Drainage; Upper Stour Valley; Kingswinford; Dudley; Tettenhall. Besides these we have our own sewerage farms at Penn, Kinver and Autherley.

The district is mostly agricultural, but recently there have been considerable building activities in certain localities.

The only works we have are prosperous ironworks in the parish of Swindon where there is neither coal nor iron. The recent opening of the branch of the G.W.R. from Stourbridge to Wolverhampton, which was begun before the war, is

now useful for these works and also opens up a long agricultural area. Many men are also employed in collieries on the Dudley side.

### POPULATION

In 1921 was estimated at 16,710, that for 1925 was estimated at 17,690, an increase of 980—a very low estimate I judge.

The number of Inhabited Houses in 1921 was 4071, and is now 4417, an increase of 346.

The number of families or separate occupiers in 1921 was 4146.

The rateable value of the district is £116,927, viz.: — £80,969 Buildings, etc., Agricultural Land £35,958—the sum produced by a 1d. Rate on the reduced assessable value under the Agricultural Rates Act, 1923, being £374 16s. 7d.

### BIRTHS.

The number of births was 285. There was a curiously large preponderance of males, viz: 156 males against 129 females. There were 10 less births than last year. The illegitimate births numbered 16. The birth rate was 16·9. That of England and Wales 18·3.

### DEATHS.

The number of Deaths was 189, giving a rate of 11·2, that of England and Wales 12·2.

The Infant mortality under one year was 69·1 per 1,000 births. That of illegitimates being 62·5 and that of legitimates 70·6.



## CAUSES OF DEATH IN SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT, 1925.

No.	Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
	All Causes .. .. .	107	91
1	Enteric Fever .. .. .	—	—
2	Small-pox .. .. .	—	—
3	Measles .. .. .	—	—
4	Scarlet Fever .. .. .	1	—
5	Whooping Cough .. .. .	1	2
6	Diphtheria .. .. .	1	1
7	Influenza .. .. .	4	1
8	Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	—	—
9	Meningococcal Meningitis .. .. .	—	—
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. .. .	12	8
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases .. .. .	—	1
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease .. .. .	9	9
13	Rheumatic Fever .. .. .	—	—
14	Diabetes .. .. .	—	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. .. .. .	8	7
16	Heart Disease .. .. .	12	21
17	Arterio-sclerosis .. .. .	4	1
18	Bronchitis .. .. .	2	8
19	Pneumonia (all forms) .. .. .	7	3
20	Other Respiratory Diseases .. .. .	2	1
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .. .. .	1	—
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) .. .. .	3	—
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis .. .. .	—	—
24	Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	—	1
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis .. .. .	3	5
26	Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	—	—
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .. .. .	—	1
28	Congenital Debility, &c. .. .. .	4	3
29	Suicide .. .. .	5	—
30	Other deaths from Violence .. .. .	8	1
31	Other defined Diseases .. .. .	20	16
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown .. .. .	—	—
	Special Causes (included above):—		
	Poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	1
	Polioencephalitis .. .. .	—	—
	Deaths of Infants } Total .. .. .	12	7
	under 1 year of age } Illegitimate .. .. .	1	—
	Total Births .. .. .	156	129
	Legitimate .. .. .	147	122
	Illegitimate .. .. .	9	7
	Population .. .. .	17,690	

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifications numbered 151, compared with 76 in 1924.

### SCARLET FEVER.

There were 75 cases notified against 42 in 1924, but several did not develop characteristic symptoms, they were very sporadic cases; in many cases the cause of infection being impossible to trace, some occurring in very isolated houses.

62 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital which was only empty for one day.

There was one death.

### DIPHTHERIA.

There were 16 cases, considerably more than the average. The increase of this disease was pretty general throughout the country, but with the use of anti-toxin in early stages is seldom fatal.

There were two deaths.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases.

### DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.

These diseases were not very prevalent but there were 2 deaths under 2 years of age.

### PUERPURAL FEVER.

No cases.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases.

### SMALL POX.

No cases.

## NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

As before the following Parishes are affiliated to the County Nursing Association: Wombourn, Enville, Kinver, Pattingham and Penn.



There are no definite arrangements for nursing infectious cases in their own homes, though the Parish nurses frequently supervise.

All the Schools are periodically visited by School doctors and nurses.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Your Authority having now joined the County for Maternity and Child Welfare, Clinics are to be instituted in several centres.

The County Council have all the documents for the past year, so I am unable to give particulars.

All nursing and expecting mothers have been periodically visited after the tenth day and all children up to the age of five. The immense amount of visits this entails is given in detail in the annual Health Visitors' Reports. There have been no cases of Puerpural Sepsis for the last five years and only five connected with Parturition.

### HOSPITALS.

The Council provides Isolation Hospitals for Scarlet Fever and Small-pox. The former can accommodate 18 patients and the latter 6.

For Diphtheria arrangements are made with the General Hospital.

For Tuberculosis the Joint Committee for Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley provides sanatoria at Himley for children, at Prestwood and Kinver for males in your District and for females at Groundslow, in N. Staffs.

There are private Maternity Homes in the District and neighbourhood, and a public one at Wolverhampton at a moderate fee.

Patients are treated at the General Hospital, Women's Hospital, Eye Infirmary, Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge and the Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Children are treated at all of these, and Women and Children at the Penn Convalescent Home, and Men at Milford.

We have our own Ambulance for Scarlet Fever and hire for Diphtheria. Ambulances are also available in Wolverhampton.

The Bacteriological work has been transferred from Wolverhampton General Hospital to the County Laboratory at Lichfield. The confirmation of serious diseases is telephoned at once.

The following diseases are scheduled:—Tubercle, Diphtheria, Enteric, Specific diseases, Dysentery, Ringworm, etc.

Vaccines are provided for Diphtheria and Enteric.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The populous parts of the District are well supplied with tap water, from the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Works, the Bilston Water Works, the South Staffordshire Water Works Company and our own Kinver Water Works. The most pressing need for a pure supply was in the parish of Bobbington where the South Staffordshire water mains have been laid down and the houses connected. Further extensions of mains have been carried out in the parishes of Kinver, Enville, and Upper and Lower Penn.

There are no serious pollutions of rivers and streams.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The populous parishes of Upper Penn, Kinver and Wrottesley, are provided with proper and efficient sewers and sewage outfall works, and extensive alterations and additions are in progress in the parishes of Upper Penn and Kinver to meet the growing needs of the increasing number of houses. All the houses in these parts have proper drains, and are connected with the sewers; the houses in the outlying parts drain into cesspools,

In the Parish of Upper Penn, the sewer was extended in 1924 up Cuckoo Lane, to provide for new houses being erected; and in 1925, the sewer was extended from Sandy Lane, along the Codsall Road to Palmer's Cross, in the Parish of Wrottesley. This was a very desirable extension, as the locality is developing as a residential district with good class houses.

In the sewerred parts of the district the larger number of the houses have water-closets and movable ashbins.

In the Parish of Kinver all the houses on the line of the sewer, have water-closets and ashbins. Since the completion of the sewerage scheme in 1914, all the houses have been provided with new drainage, and the old privy-middens abolished, and water-closets substituted. This work was completed during the year 1921.

In the Parish of Upper Penn there are 777 water closets, 331 waste water-closets, 340 pail closets and 38 privies.

In the Parish of Wrottesley there are 128 pail closets, 34 water-closets and 6 privies.

When the extension of the sewerage scheme in Upper Penn is completed, I understand that the conversion of the pail closets to the water carriage system will be undertaken.

In the Parishes of Upper Penn, Kinver and Wombourn, the removal of house refuse is carried out by contractors, and in the populous parts of Wrottesley the work is done by men in your Surveyor's Department. The substitution of movable ashbins in place of ashpits is recommended as far as possible and these are emptied once in every two weeks.

#### THE ADOPTIVE ACTS.

These are the Public Health Act, 1890, the Building Bye-laws, Bye-laws for Scavenging, Offensive Trades, Slaughter Houses, Lodging Houses, and Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops' Order.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:— No.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately  
under (b) ) ... .. 126

(b) With State assistance under the Housing  
Acts:—

(i) By the Local Authority ... —

(ii) By other bodies or persons ... 101

1.—*Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses  
inspected for housing defects  
(under Public Health or Housing  
Acts) ... .. 367

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which  
were inspected and recorded under  
the Housing (Inspection of District)  
Regulations, 1910, or the Housing  
Consolidated Regulations, 1925... —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to  
be in a state so dangerous or  
injurious to health as to be unfit  
for human habitation ... .. —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (ex-  
clusive of those referred to under  
the preceding sub-heading) found  
not to be in all respects reasonably  
fit for human habitation ... 289

2.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in  
consequence of informal action by the Local  
Authority or their Officers ... .. 256



3. — *Action under Statutory Powers.*A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing,  
Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— ... ..	—
(a) by owners ... ..	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ..	—

## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	25
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	25
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the  
Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	—
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	No.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit      ...      ...      ...      ...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

### MILK SUPPLY.

Three milk dealers were registered: 2 producers and 1 retailer, and there were 139 persons on the Register at the end of the year. Four notices were given for defects: 1 cowshed provided with windows, 1 provided with means of ventilation, 1 provided with new floor, and 5 cowsheds were cleansed and lime-washed.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

#### NUMBER OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN DISTRICT.

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered ...	7	7	7
Licensed ...	1	3	5

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, came into operation on April 1st, 1925, and persons slaughtering animals for sale for human consumption are required to give notice of slaughter. 162 notices were received, 140 visits to slaughter houses were made and 214 different animals were inspected. Of these 38 were cottagers' pigs killed at their own homes. The whole carcasses of 3 cows, the organs of 1 cow and a pig's liver were condemned and destroyed.



# 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories .. .. . (Including Factory Laundries)	2	1	—
Workshops .. .. . (Including Workshop Laundries)	9	1	—
Workplaces .. .. . (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	—	—	—
Total ... ..	11	2	—

# 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. ..	—	—	—	—
Want of ventilation .. ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances .. ..	1	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation:				
Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences .. ..	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921).				
Total .. ..	1	1	—	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES, GENERALLY, 1920 TO 1925.

The incidence of these diseases is slightly increased, probably accountable by the increase of population and increased facility for locomotion, especially in public vehicles.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is easily obtainable and is freely used.

There was only one mild case of Encephalitis Lethargica, which soon recovered.

Return cases of Scarlet Fever are extremely rare. Pneumonia and Dysentery are not at all prevalent, and Malaria and Trench Fever are non-existent. No necessity has been found for the use of the Schick and Dick Tests. No Vaccinations have been performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Small pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

There have been only 32 Deaths from Influenza registered in the last five years. Disinfection of houses or rooms is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector after infectious cases and removal or deaths of Phthisis.

Non-notifiable acute Infectious Diseases have not been excessive, but various departments or whole schools have been closed for short periods and schools frequently inspected and the children severally examined when Scarlet Fever has broken out in schools.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)  
DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Disease.						Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	75	62	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	16	9	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	..				..	0	0	—
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	12	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths including those in Kinver and Prestwood Sanatoria.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..								
1	..	..			1	1				
5	..	..	1		1	1				
10	..	..	2	1						1
15	..	..	2	1			5			
20	..	..	6	4		1	5	2		
25	..	..	7	6	1	3	6	1		
35	..	..	1	1			6			
45	..	..	4				6			
55	..	..	1	1			1	2		
65 and upwards							1			
Totals			24	14	3	6	30	5		1

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. R. SPACKMAN, F.R.I.P.H.

## SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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*Annual Report and Summary of the Sanitary Inspector for  
the Year 1925.*

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## VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Housing inspections and miscellaneous inspections and reinspections	...	...	...	...	...	1557
Visits, <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	155
„ to Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	140
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ „ Workshops and Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	40
„ „ Under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	...	...	23
						<hr/>
				Total	...	1949
						<hr/>

## COMPLAINTS.

40 complaints of various nuisances or defects were received, and action was taken to remedy matters where found necessary.

Number of Nuisances reported upon	...	...	...	544
„ „ Notices served, Informal	...	...	180	
„ „ „ „ Statutory	...	...	18	
			—	198
„ „ Letters, Circulars, etc. sent	...	...	...	861
„ „ Summonses issued for non compli- ance with notices	...	...	...	13
„ „ Convictions obtained	...	...	...	11
„ „ Summonses dismissed	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ „ withdrawn	...	...	...	1

NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE AS A RESULT  
OF THE NOTICES GIVEN, ETC.

Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	74
Houses repaired (roofs, walls, floors, ceilings, etc.)	...	...	51
Houses cleansed (dirty walls and ceilings)	...	...	52
Cases of overcrowding remedied	...	...	2
Wash-houses repaired	...	...	5
Houses supplied with tap water	...	...	17
Wells closed	...	...	9
Houses provided with new drainage	...	...	16
Drains unstopped or repaired	...	...	32
Water closets and Urinals repaired	...	...	6
Sanitary sinks fixed	...	...	6
Spoutings repaired	...	...	31
Midden privies converted into W.C.'s	...	...	9
Pail privies converted into W.C.'s	...	...	5
Midden privies converted into pail closets	...	...	19
New pails provided to closets	...	...	17
Ashbins provided	...	...	42
Ashpits abolished	...	...	14
Privies and ashpits emptied	...	...	31
Cesspools and ditches cleansed	...	...	7
Nuisances from animals and offensive accumulations removed	...	...	13
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	5
„ lighted and ventilated	...	...	2
„ floors relaid	...	...	1
Slaughter-houses limewashed	...	...	3
Total			469

PETROLEUM ACTS.

37 Licenses were granted, to store, 29 for Petrol, 5 for Carbide of Calcium, and 3 for Petrol and Carbide, an increase of 4 on the previous year. All the stores were inspected during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST MANTELL,

Cert. Royal San. Inst.,

Sanitary Inspector.







